

Employee of the Week: Chip Winters

Landscape Artist

He takes time to stop and smell the roses... after planting, fertilizing, watering, and pruning them! Chip Winters is the maintenance supervisor at the John Hargreaves District Court and Multi-Service Center in Denton. Chip is best described as a plant whisperer because he can make any plant or flower grow and thrive. For Doing Great Service and using flower power to transform the grounds of the Denton facility into a lush, colorful garden, Chip Winters is our DGS Employee of the Week.

Chip's roots are firmly planted in horticulture. His father was a botanist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Chip followed in his footsteps graduating from the University of Maryland, College Park with a degree in Ornamental Horticulture. He landed his dream job in 1980 as the Government House horticulturist. Chip says the grounds of the historic mansion were his oyster and he was given the freedom to turn his creativity loose. He modestly admits that his landscaping received many compliments during his tenure, particularly from Governor Harry Hughes. Chip says working at Government House inspired another lifelong passion – collecting antiques and artwork.



For the past 13 years Chip has been the maintenance supervisor at the Denton facility. His favorite part of the job is creating a welcoming environment for visitors. Chip doesn't just plant flowers; he designs works of art, incorporating colors and patterns to create eye-catching compositions.

"I really enjoy working with Chip and am so happy to have him as a member of our team," said Laurie Schmitt, Regional Manager, Region 1 Multi-Service Centers. "He is not only our resident flower guru; he is also the ultimate team player, ready to jump in whenever and wherever he is needed. Chip is a definite asset to our Region 1 team and I feel very lucky to have him!"

If you need further proof that gardening is good for the soul, look no further than Chip's dad who at 100 years young just hung up his gardening tools last year. Chip has no plans to do that just yet. For now, he spends his free time on his 44 acre farm on the Eastern Shore tending to his garden and other projects.

DGS would like to thank Chip Winters for his outstanding landscapes and for **Doing Great Service**.